

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02

L-01 IO-03 ACDA-10 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 ARA-06 /065 W
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R 111203Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1995

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1901

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN RECOGNITION

REF: STATE 265503

1. SUMMARY: GOG OBJECTIVE AND TACTICS CLOSELY PARALLEL USG ON ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE. GOG WILL LOOK PRIMARILY TO OAU FOR LEADERSHIP ON SEEKING PEACEFUL SOLUTION BUT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA. TELEPHONE REPORT FROM GOG AMBASSADOR IN LUSAKA NOV 10 INDICATES EXPECTED DE FACTO PARTITION WITH TANZANIA BACKING MPLA, ZAMBIA BACKING FNLA AND PROTRACTED STRUGGLE FORESEEN. END SUMMARY.

2. I WAS ABLE TO SEE FONMIN FRED WILLS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL NOV 10. AS FORMER GOG AMBASSADOR TO LUSAKA, WILLS IS WELL INFORMED AND DEEPLY INTERESTED, IN AND EVEN INVOLVED, IN SOUTH AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS. AFTER I HAD EXPLAINED PURPOSE OF VISIT, PER PARA 8 REFTEL, WILLS OFFERED TO GIVE GOG POSITION ANTICIPATING THAT I WOULD FIND IT VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH USG OBJECTIVES.

3. WILLS SAID USSR GIVING STRONG BACKING TO MPLA, BOTH DIRECTLY
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AND THROUGH PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL. SOVIETS SEEKING

ACCESS TO PORT FACILITIES IN SW AFRICA AND INFLUENCE OVER DISPOSITION OF PETROLEUM FROM CABINDA. GUYANA OPPOSES BIG POWER MACHINATIONS AND LOOKS TO OAU TO BRING AN END TO INTERFERENCE BY EXTERNAL POWERS. WHAT GOG WOULD LIKE TO SEE IS UNITY AMONG THREE FACTIONS AND AN AFRICAN SOLUTION. GOG RECOGNIZES THAT OAU LIBERATION COMTE ENGAGES IN END-RUNNING OAU HEADQUARTERS.

4. IN THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION THE GOG WILL NOT RPT NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA IF IT MAKES CLAIM TO BE GOVT OF ANGOLA. GOG WILL NOT ACT PRECIPITOUSLY BUT HOPES EVENTUALLY TO RECOGNIZE WHICHEVER OF THREE FACTIONS OR COMBINATIONS THEREOF ACHIEVES DE FACTO CONTROL.

5. WHILE I WAS WITH HIM, WILLS RECEIVED TELEPHONE REPORT FROM CEDRIC GRANT, GOG AMBASSADOR IN LUSAKA. WILLS SUMMED UP GRANT'S REPORT AS INDICATING THAT TENSIONS ARE MOUNTING ON EVE OF PORTUGUESE ACTION NOV 11. PRESENT EXPECTATION IS THAT EACH OF THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WILL MAKE SEPARATE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THAT THERE WILL BE DE FACTO PARTITION BASED ON MILITARY CONTROL OF TERRITORY. IN SPITE OF HEAVY SUPPORT FROM OUTSIDE, MPLA IS AT DISADVANTAGE MILITARILY BECAUSE ITS TERRITORY LIES BETWEEN THAT CONTROLLED BY OTHER TWO GROUPS. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY DISADVANTAGED BY FACT THAT NETO HAS ANGERED AMIN, WHO WAS FORMERLY LEANING TOWARD SUPPORT OF MPLA. LINEUP WITHIN OAU AT PRESENT HAS NYERERE BACKING MPLA BUT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA SUPPORTING FNLA AS MEANS OF PROTECTING HIS RAILWAY OUTLET THROUGH LOBITO. OTHER EX-PORTUGUESE COLONIES ARE BACKING MPLA TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER.

5. WILLS ADDED THAT POLITICAL OFFICER OF NEWLY INSTALLED CUBAN EMBASSY (ESTRADA) HAD MADE DEMARCHE LATE LAST WEEK ASKING GOG SUPPORT FOR MPLA. HE SAID ESTRADA ADMITTED CUBA HAD SENT 1,000 SOLDIERS TO FIGHT WITH MPLA OF THESE 900 WERE BLACK. ALTHOUGH ESTRADA EXPLAINED THIS AS NECESSARY TO AVOID ERRORS OF RECOGNITION, WILLS SAID MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION WAS THAT BLACK CASUALTIES WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO CUBAN POPULACE THAN WHITE.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL ISSUE IN OVER A YEAR ON WHICH GUYANA HAS LINED UP FARILY CLOSE TO USG POSITION. WILLS SEEMED GENUINELY DELIGHTED TO HAVE IT SO, AND I RECOMMEND THAT
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WE LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE, ALTHOUGH I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF, AS APPROPRIATE, WE WERE IN POSITION TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH GOG FROM TIME TO TIME ON ANGOLAN SITUATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, INDEPENDENCE, PARTITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GEORGE01901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750391-1120
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751155/aaaabxhb.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 265503
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLAN RECOGNITION
TAGS: PFOR, US, AO, MPLA, FNLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006